

HARESCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL

ON 28th JULY 2021 AT 8PM.

Present: Cllrs Andy Buckmaster (Chairman), Mike Hyett, Kath Pritchard, Caroline Ractliffe (Vice Chair), and Sheila Murray (Clerk)

There were three members of the public present.

Presentation:

A representative from Passion First Aid gave an update on their company and services for the supply and installation of a Defibrillator unit and cabinet. Cllrs were advised that an electrical supply was required to enable the unit to function continually. A quotation was provided to Cllr Ractliffe.

1/07.21 Public question time

Representatives from the Church were welcomed and made comment on several issues:

They were disappointed that they had not been informed of the decision by Parish Council to withdraw the longstanding annual donation which assisted them with the costs of grass cutting of the burial ground.

They raised concern about works carried out to enhance the Church Hall which was instigated without authorisation by the Parochial Church Council.

They are aware that Parish Council have been considering the placement of a Defibrillator Unit and the provision of wi-fi to the Church Hall. Whilst they may be supportive of these Community benefits, they requested that any such decision to place equipment or services at the Church Hall must be formally addressed to the Parochial Church Council as owners of the property and land.

As a parishioner it was brought to his attention that when ditches are cleared the hedge cutting contractors carry out their work and block all the ditches and drains again, these then become blocked for the winter causing flooding in the village. It was suggested that consideration be given to communication and timing of this contracted work to avoid this happening every year.

Cllr Buckmaster offered his apologies on behalf of the Parish Council that the Parochial Church Council had not been formally advised of this Council's decision to withdraw annual donations to them. He acknowledged that the law was a grey area and that there was a low risk of the donation being contested but it placed the Councillors in a position of personal liability which they felt was unacceptable.

Cllrs Buckmaster and Ractliffe advised that the enhancements made to the Church Hall were instigated by the Chair of the Village Social Committee and recommended their concerns were raised with them.

Cllr Buckmaster advised that the Defibrillator unit and Wi-fi would be discussed later under the agenda. He acknowledged that this Council's responsibility was to obtain formal

permission from the Parochial Church Council as part of the decision-making process if it involved the Church Hall and associated land.

Councillors debated the issues around the timing of the ditch clearing, hedge cutting and drain top clearing.

2/07.21 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from District Councillor Mossman which were accepted. Cllr Lawday was absent.

3/07.21 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2021 were accepted and approved as a true record. Signed Cllr Buckmaster on behalf of the Council.

4/07.21 Matters Arising from the Minutes not covered on the Agenda

None

5/07.21 Member's declaration of interest to items on the agenda

Cllr Pritchard declared an interest as Secretary for agenda item: 13.2 Church Funding

Cllr Ractliffe declared an interest as Treasurer for agenda item: 13.2 Church Funding

6/07.21 Report on roads, ditches and footpaths in the village

6.1 Ditch clearing

Cllr Hyett confirmed that the programme is still set for August and will follow up in liaison with Cllr Ractliffe.

Councillors again debated the issues around ditch and drain top clearing. They reviewed the previous actions explored to assist the problem but agreed that landowners should take responsibility for clearing waterlogged ditches. Highways will carry out this work if it is their responsibility and, in such situations, flooding should be reported to them.

6.2 Pound of Candles

Cllr Ractliffe confirmed that the bollards have been replaced by Highways at the Pound of Candles.

Cllr Ractliffe advised that discussions with Highways regarding a layby would be on 50/50 cost share basis. Application for formal consideration was handed to the Clerk for submission. Councillors previously approved the expenditure for this project.

The project cost is circa £7,000 with 50% covered by Highway and 50% Parish Council funds.

Bluebell Lane-Pound of Candles. Following discussions with Highways Cllr Ractliffe advised that they are pursuing Gigaclear who have removed a grating which must be replaced before further works are carried out.

Harescombe Sign pipe. Highways advised that they have cleared the pipe at the and will not be doing it again this year.

Gruntus – Water run off issues and overhanging hedges are to be viewed by Highways this week with Cllrs Ractliffe and Pritchard.

6.3 Fly Tipping

Cllr Buckmaster confirmed that SDC will replace the Fly Tipping signage between Harescombe and Haresfield and will follow up.

He has sourced some additional plastic signage and will prepare a draft of the wording for print. Councillors to approve the draft prior to purchase.

7/07.21 Village Projects

7.1 Supply and installation of a Defibrillator

Following the presentation by Passion First Aid and consideration of alternative quotes provided by Cllr Ractliffe. Cllr Pritchard proposed to go ahead with the purchase of a

Defibrillator unit, seconded Cllr Ractliffe vote: unanimous. The Clerk was asked to formally request permission for the unit to be installed outside the Church Hall and for the use of an electrical supply from the Church Hall.

7.2 Councillors discussed the options of how to provide Wi-fi facilities to the Church Hall as this would be of benefit to the Parish Council meetings and the Community. It was agreed that a router would be trialled to test a connection from a nearby source and in the meantime, the Clerk was asked to make enquiries to the PCC if it would consider the installation and connection of Wi-fi facilities at the Church Hall. The Clerk advised that there would be an oncost to the Parish Council.

7.3 Application for the naming of a new road to “Brook Lane” was discussed.

Cllr Buckmaster proposed support for the new name vote: unanimous.

The Clerk to contact SDC to confirm the decision and to enquire as to the costs involved.

8/07.21 District Councillor’s report

Cllr Mossman provided a report, but no comments were raised.

Cllr Ractliffe advised that the local Boundary Commission are proposing a change for Harescombe parish to become part of Cotswold, although still relate to Stroud District Council. The issue is under consultation and individuals can comment if they wish.

Councillors were neutral and no decision to comment was forthcoming.

9/07.21 Planning update

Wood Cottage Sevenleaze Lane Edge Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6NL

Discharge condition 5 (Biodiv CEMP) & condition 6 (Biodiv Lighting) on permitted application S.20/1522/FUL - PERMITTED

Randalls Cottages Stockend Edge Stroud Gloucestershire GL6 6PJ

Erection of conservatory - PERMITTED

Brookthorpe Hall Nursing Home Wynstones Drive Brookthorpe Gloucester GL4 0UN

Change of use from residential care home (Class C2) today school (Class F1), installation of vehicular access, parking area and games area, new landscaping. (Revised drawings received 27.5.21)- PERMITTED

10/07.21 Finance

10.1 The financial reports were provided to Councillors prior to the meeting and included:

- A Bank Reconciliation
- Summary expenditure year to date
- Performance v budget.

Councillors unanimously approved the documents.

11/07.1

The Bacs schedule was presented and approved for payment.

Cllr Buckmaster will check the authorisation process with Lloyds Bank.

Payment schedule

Date	Payee	Description		Amount	Power
28/07/2021	Sheila Murray	Salary Apr/May/June/July	BACS	£ 400.08	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
28/07/2021	HMRC	PAYE Apr/May/June/July	BACS	£ 76.60	LGA 1972 s.112(2)
28/07/2021	PATA	Payroll Expenses	BACS	£ 23.85	LGA 1972 s.111
TOTAL				£ 500.53	

12/07/21 Administration

12.1 The Clerk confirmed that the submitted Exemption under AGAR 2020/21 has been approved by the External Auditor.

12.2 The Clerk submitted three quotes regarding a replacement Lap Top computer. Councillors approved unanimously that a limit of £600 would be sufficient for the purchase and software requirements.

13/07/21 Correspondence

13.1 Councillors have been advised of the new Neighbourhood Warden Mr. Fraiser Hammond and his contact details. Cllr Buckmaster also advised that the Cotswold Warden was Brad Blake, the Clerk will distribute his contact details.

13.2 Cllr Buckmaster opened further discussions about funding for the Parochial Church, but the meeting was not quorate at this point, so the matter was deferred. He did add that there were other alternative forms of funding available to the Church which could be addressed in the future.

14/07/21 Councillors' Submissions

Cllr Buckmaster was asked to make enquires about the provision of bus services. Although, this service has not been provided for many years there was an option of travel tokens for the over 65's and he was asked to make enquiries about whether this could be considered again.

15/03/21 Date of next meeting 15th September 2021 in the Village Hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 pm